



Roanoke County Wins First Place in National Traffic Safety Challenge

In May 2005, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) announced the winners of the National Law Enforcement Challenge. This competition recognizes the best overall traffic safety program and awards agencies according to number of employees. Agencies are required to submit an entry packet which is reviewed by three judges. Agencies are judged on their efforts to enforce laws, educate the public about occupant protection, impaired driving and speeding.

The Roanoke County Police Department was awarded first place in municipal agencies with 101-250 officers. The Department also took first place in the Virginia Chiefs of Police Chief's Challenge. The Virginia Chiefs of Police also awarded the Roanoke County Police Department with the Underage Alcohol Prevention Award.



The Department implemented several new programs to target the increasing crash rate for those drivers under 21 years old. "Why Math Matters" is a presentation given to county high school math students demonstrating math formulas utilized by crash reconstructionists. Once each formula or principle was presented, we then provided photos and videos to support findings and show what could have been done to prevent the crash. The presentations were so successful, the program was expanded to physics classes where the math formulas were dropped and the principles of physics were used to explain what happens in crashes.

High school students used "Project Sticker Shock" to promote prevention of underage drinking at local businesses. A mock alcohol related crash was staged at William Byrd High School and Northside High School had a mock funeral for a student who died because of not using his seatbelt.

